

CLAIMS

1. A carbon microrod comprising a glassy carbon and a crystalline carbon.

5 2. The carbon microrod according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline carbon is oriented substantially in one direction.

10 3. The carbon microrod according to claim 1, wherein the carbon microrod contains at least in a surface portion at least 20% by mass of the crystalline carbon.

4. The carbon microrod according to claims 1, wherein the carbon microrod has a cross-sectional diameter of up to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15 5. A method, of producing a carbon microrod, comprising the steps of:

mixing an organic substance that leaves glassy carbon after firing with a graphite powder;

molding the mixture so that a molded article has a desired shape; and

20 firing the molded article.

6. The method of producing a carbon microrod according to claim 5, wherein extrusion molding is conducted in the molding step so that crystals of the graphite are oriented substantially in one direction.